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# spirit matchday

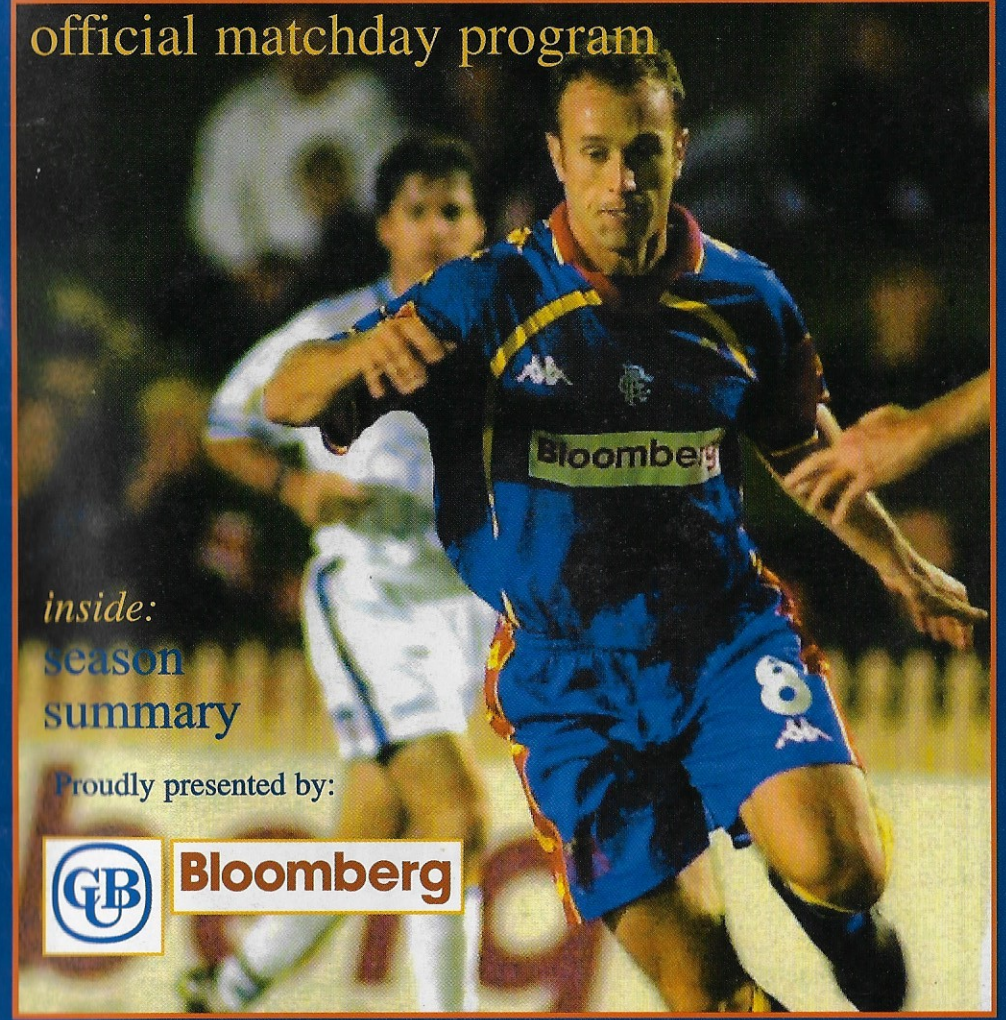
## official matchday program

inside:  
season  
summary

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# spirit v wollongong wolves

wednesday april 25  
kick-off 7.30pm



not here  
**spirit**



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Northern Spirit would like to wish all fans all the very best for the off-season, and looks forward to seeing you next season!

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## mick hickman column

As we come to the end of the 2000/01 National Soccer League I don't want to do too much looking back over the season - I would prefer to look forward to what we are all hoping is a better and brighter 2001/02 NSL season for Northern Spirit.

First of all, forget about the talk coming from some quarters saying that Northern Spirit will not be in the NSL next season. Although we are not happy with the rankings, we have come inside the top 12 and hence we have a future.

A big future!

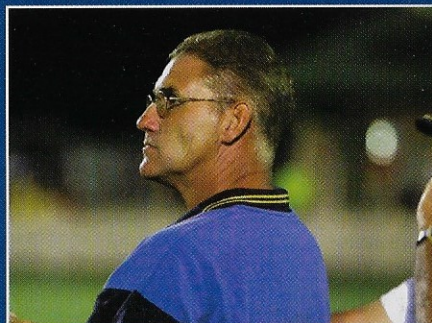
We have been working hard over the last few weeks to decide what players we'll be looking to entice to the club as well as casting a very close eye over the existing Northern Spirit playing staff to make sure we assemble the best possible squad for the 2001/02 NSL season.

The main ingredient we are after is a solid backbone. Every successful team needs to have a solid backbone from the back, through the midfield and up front and we are looking to secure this backbone and build around it.

With the season not yet complete it would be unprofessional of us to name names but rest assured we are looking at and speaking to highly regarded NSL players who are noted for getting the job done.

Names and flashy reputations will count for nothing when we are putting the squad together.

As well as putting a squad in place we are also working hard on a pre-season



program that will have us primed to attack when the 2001/02 NSL starts.

No stone will be left unturned in our pursuit of giving you, the fans, a successful football team to get this place jumping the way it used to be.

Tonight we welcome Wollongong Wolves to North Sydney Oval and ironically it is this type of side that every club in the NSL is striving to put onto the park.

There are no egos or flashy stars. They have a committed group who go out there and play as a unit - a champion team, not a team of champions.

Although the NSL playoffs are long gone from our minds we want to finish the season on a high with a victory over the Wolves, who are bound for the semi finals.

To all of you who have stood by Northern Spirit through the thick and thin, remember this: "When we return to the top you can be proud to say that you were with us through the bad times, as well as the good".

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# end of season review

Spirit Matchday Editor Mark Fowler takes a look at Northern Spirit's 2000/01 NSL campaign

## PRE-SEASON

After a nightmare 1999/2000 NSL season for Northern Spirit, with the club finishing 13th out of 16 teams and struggling financially, the acquisition by Rangers FC of 51% of the club brought renewed optimism for all concerned.

With a secure base behind them Spirit were able to resign midfielder Gabriel 'Chi Chi' Mendez from Sydney Olympic, as well as bring in midfielders Scott Thomas and Noel Spencer from Olympic and Wollongong respectively. With the loss of David Seal coach Graham Arnold looked to have plugged the gap well with the signing of former Carlton hitman Alex Moreira, while ironically the one face no one knew anything about, Blackburn's Ben Burgess, would prove to be the best signing of them all.

## OCTOBER

Spirit started their season

with a game at Edensor Park against Sydney United, and when Matthew Langdon gave them the perfect start with a goal after just six minutes everything looked rosy. Unfortunately Spirit then conceded two late goals to throw the game away, United's winner coming just three minutes from time. A tough 0-0 draw at home to Sydney Olympic followed, and then came Spirit's first win - a 2-0 success at Eastern Pride. Moreira grabbed his first goal for the club, while Mendez converted a penalty.

## NOVEMBER

Spirit followed up the win in Morwell with arguably the best home performance of the season, crushing the Kingz FC 4-2. Burgess ensured he would quickly become a crowd favourite, scoring a hat trick in just 12 minutes in an awesome display of finishing prowess. A 'home' draw against Newcastle followed - the match played at NorthPower Stadium in Gosford, before a

frustrating 3-2 loss in Adelaide, where at times Spirit, according to Arnold, "the best football we have played." That seemed born out the following week, when back at North Sydney Oval Spirit thoroughly deserved a 2-0 victory over the Perth Glory, Moreira and Burgess getting on the scoresheet. The arrival of Socceroo Craig Foster was to be another feather in the club's cap too, Foster returning back to Australia after spending time in the UK.

## DECEMBER

A 1-1 draw at Carlton started December off, although that hard-earned point soon became three as Carlton dropped out of the league shortly afterwards. It would be the start of some difficult times for the NSL. Spirit were held to a goalless draw with Marconi, drew in Melbourne against the Knights, and were then less than impressive against the Brisbane Strikers at home, but a 1-0 win got the club in contention for a top six spot.

That proved as good as it got for Spirit though, with fans having little to celebrate immediately after Christmas with a 3-0 defeat at Parramatta.

## JANUARY

A boost was needed for the first game of the New Year, but 2001 started poorly for the club with a 2-0 home defeat against a struggling Canberra Cosmos side. A better performance still saw Spirit go down 2-1 at home to an impressive South Melbourne, with Burgess grabbing his eighth goal of the season, but when another home game that Spirit were expected to win, against Sydney United, went by without the club securing any points things started to look bleak.

## FEBRUARY

A 2-1 defeat at Sydney Olympic, Spirit's fifth on the trot, would prove a milestone in the club's history, as just days later coach Graham Arnold announced that he would be leaving the club as both player and coach to take up a full-time position with the Socceroos. That meant that his assistant Mick Hickman, himself new to the club, was thrown in at the deep end, and his first task was overseeing a poor 1-0 home defeat at the hands of Eastern Pride in what was surely the most disappointing match of the season.

With the Kingz looking for revenge for their mauling earlier in the season, and doing well on the ladder, Spirit weren't given much hope when they traveled across the Tasman, but typically came away with a fine 2-1 win courtesy of two more goals from that man Burgess. And following that up came a memorable 17 minutes against Newcastle at Marathon Stadium, where Spirit, inspired by substitute Daniel Watkins, scored four times to seal a 4-2 win. A late Matthew

Langdon free kick then secured a hard-earned point against our visitors tonight, Wollongong Wolves, at a noisy WIN Stadium.

## MARCH

On the back of three fine away performances Spirit fans were looking forward to a home clash with the Adelaide City Force, but Spirit Matchday featured player Stuart Howson not only scored one own goal, but was lucky not to be credited with another. The 3-2 loss was followed by a 4-1 defeat over in Perth, but Spirit came back with another good away performance, new signing Lee Feeney being unlucky not to grab all three points for the club in a 0-0 draw at Marconi Stadium.

With Melbourne Knights then arriving in Sydney on the back of losing coach Vlado Vanis things looked up for Spirit, but a disastrous 4-1 defeat followed, with the Knights squandering several gilt-edged chances at the end to really blow the score out.

## APRIL

At the time of writing the Canberra Cosmos game was still to be played, but Spirit started April with two draws - away at Brisbane thanks to a late free-kick by Moreira, and then at home to the Parramatta Power (see match report on page 11)

## THE FUTURE?

Well with the complete purchase of the club by Rangers FC and the announcement that Mick Hickman has been confirmed as full-time coach, lets hope the club can finish considerable higher next season than they will this season. Hickman, new assistant Jean Paul de Marigny, players, fans and officials will expect nothing less!

# TODAY'S SQUADS



|    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 1  | John Perosh      |
| 2  | Michael Cunico   |
| 3  | Matthew Langdon  |
| 4  | Matthew Bingley  |
| 5  | Mike Smith       |
| 6  | Scott Thomas     |
| 7  | Robbie Slater    |
| 8  | Robert Enes      |
| 9  | Alex Moreira     |
| 10 | Gabriel Mendez   |
| 11 | Troy Cranney     |
| 12 | Ben Burgess      |
| 14 | Noel Spencer     |
| 15 | Tony Perinich    |
| 16 | Simon Catanzaro  |
| 17 | Lee Feeney       |
| 18 | Daniel Watkins   |
| 19 | Ryan Griffiths   |
| 20 | Paul Henderson   |
| 21 | Adam Griffiths   |
| 22 | Jacek Sobczyk    |
| 25 | Craig Foster     |
| 26 | Joseph Schirripa |
| 27 | Stuart Howson    |
| 28 | Matthew Hunter   |
| 29 | Todd Macrae      |

**COACH:** Mick Hickman

|    |                     |
|----|---------------------|
| 1  | Daniel Beltrame     |
| 2  | George Souris       |
| 3  | Alvin Ceccoli       |
| 4  | Robert Stanton      |
| 5  | David Cervinski     |
| 6  | Matt Horsley        |
| 7  | Paul Reid           |
| 8  | Max Nicholson       |
| 9  | Saso Petrovski      |
| 10 | Stuart Young        |
| 11 | Scott Chipperfield  |
| 12 | Paul Harries        |
| 13 | George Nohra        |
| 14 | Jay Lucas           |
| 15 | David Huxley        |
| 16 | Beren Sullivan      |
| 17 | Ben Blake           |
| 18 | Paul O'Grady        |
| 19 | Steven Dimitrievski |
| 20 | Grant Barlow        |
| 21 | Frank Barila        |
| 22 | Steven Angelov      |
| 23 | Dino Mennillo       |
| 26 | Dean Anastasiadis   |
| 27 | Robbie Middleby     |
| 30 | Scott Whalan        |

**COACH:** Ron Corry



Northern Spirit's visitors on this ANZAC Day are the high-flying Wollongong Wolves, who will represent Oceania at the FIFA Club World Championship in Spain in June.

Despite the handicap of having to play a number of catch-up NSL games due to their qualifying matches for the Club World Championship, the Wolves are handily placed in 4th spot, and with the fate of last week's postponed game against the Eastern Pride to sort out could move level on points with Perth Glory.

Former Socceroo goalkeeper Ron Corry took over as coach of the club from Nick Theodorakopoulos after last season's superb Grand Final win, and not only has he maintained the club's fine form but has done so in some style.

In the Wolves last NSL game, a 3-1 victory over Sydney Olympic, former Carlton custodian Dean Anastasiadis took his place in goals, with Daniel Beltrame on the bench.

In defence George Souris has played over 100 NSL games for the club, while Alvin Ceccoli is a player capable of getting forward to support the attack.

Skipper Matt Horsley has played over 250 NSL games for his local club, and like Ceccoli he is equally adept at supporting from the flanks. He also netted in injury time in the game against Olympic two weeks ago.

Robbie Stanton was also a scorer against Olympic - after starting the season without a goal for the Wolves he has now netted four times this season - despite only starting five times! He has however made a number

of substitute appearances.

Ben Blake has performed well in the sweeper role this season and he should make up the Wolves defence tonight.

In midfield Paul Reid has scored six goals already, while David Huxley also played a full game against Olympic and is yet another of the current squad to have played all his NSL football with the one club.

Robbie Middleby is a skilful attacking midfielder, and along with Reid and the wingbacks will look to provide service to Wollongong's prolific strike force.

With 15 goals this season Saso Petrovski is the Wolves leading scorer, and he has now scored 34 NSL goals in just 75 appearances for the Wolves.

His partner in attack is Stuart Young, an Englishman who arrived via the club from Singapore, where he won the Golden Boot in 1998. Although little was known about him he quickly made a name for himself in the past two seasons, averaging better than a goal every two games, and netting 12 this season.

With David Cervinski, Max Nicholson and Paul Harries sitting on the bench against Olympic it proves what a strong squad Corry has at his disposal - especially when the likes of Dino Mennillo and Scott Chipperfield were missing. Chipperfield, who of the very best in the NSL, was absent on LG Socceroo duty but will need to be watched tonight.

opposition lowdown



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## match report with Mark Fowler

### NORTHERN SPIRIT 0

Parramatta Power 0

North Sydney Oval, Crowd 2,104

A fine display of goalkeeping - and a good team effort - helped Northern Spirit end a run of six successive defeats at North Sydney Oval with a draw against the Parramatta Power.

After three defeats from three against our western-suburbs neighbours things looked bleak for Spirit when, for the second home game running, a player ignored the fact he had just been cautioned to launch into an 'ill-advised' tackle.

This time the offender was Scott Thomas, who, two minutes after being cautioned by referee Con Diomis for a number of minor offences, launched himself into a tackle and promptly saw red.

That meant Spirit had over half an hour with a man short, but with goalkeeper Paul Henderson seemingly meeting every Power cross with a firm punch, and the team defending well as a unit, Spirit held on.

Indeed, substitute Daniel Watkins was unlucky twice in the space of four minutes as his long-range strikes flashed just past young Power goalkeeper Liam Reddy's upright.

The visitors should have gone ahead after just 19 minutes, and although Matthew Thompson met Steve Berry's intelligent knockdown with a weak shot, it still required a fine save from Henderson to keep the ball out.

Two minutes later Reddy did well to save a Ben Burgess free kick, but the only other notable effort of the half came when Joe Miller saw his effort well saved by Henderson.

Five minutes into the second half Burgess should have done better than see his effort cannon off Reddy - although credit to the goalkeeper - but with Thomas then seeing red it looked like being a long night for Spirit.

Henderson was finally beaten after 78 minutes, but luck went Spirit's way for once, a shot from substitute Brendan Santalab crashing against the crossbar and hacked to safety.

The move came about after Nick Orlic had given Spirit's Joey newcomer Mathew Hunter the slip, but Hunter, the youngest player to ever play first grade for Northern Spirit, soon recovered from that and showed up well in his limited time on the field.

Tony Perinich made his first start of the season for Spirit, but Spirit fans were left thanking the form of Henderson - and that Miller's usually impeccable control let him down in the 67th when a sure touch would have left him with just Henderson to beat.

Noel Spencer again proved a success in his unaccustomed position of centre-back, while Moreira and Perinich tried to prove they are worthy of a starting-spot.

It was Henderson though who deservedly took every Man of the Match award going, and no one could argue.

**NORTHERN SPIRIT:** Henderson, Cunico, Howson, Bingley, Spencer, Foster, Thomas, Enes, Burgess (Watkins 70'), Perinich (Hunter 76'), Moreira **SUBS NOT USED:** Perosh, Langdon

**Cautions:** Spencer 44', Thomas 53' & 55' **Red Card:** Thomas 55'

(Northern Spirit's round 28 NSL game was played after this issue of Spirit Matchday went to print)

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Alex Moreira



# spirit round-up

## R27 results

|                                      |                        |              |                         |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 13.04.01                             | Kingz FC               | 2 - 3        | Canberra Cosmos         |
| <b>13.04.01</b>                      | <b>NORTHERN SPIRIT</b> | <b>0 - 0</b> | <b>Parramatta Power</b> |
| 14.04.01                             | Perth Glory            | 1 - 0        | Melbourne Knights       |
| 15.04.01                             | Adelaide City Force    | 2 - 2        | Brisbane Strikers       |
| 16.04.01                             | Sydney United          | 0 - 3        | Newcastle United        |
| 18.04.01                             | Sydney Olympic         | 2 - 2        | South Melbourne         |
| Postponed Eastern Pride v Wollongong |                        |              |                         |
| Marconi Stallions (BYE)              |                        |              |                         |

## R29 draw

|                         |                                         |               |                          |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Wed 25.04.01            | Kingz FC vs South Melbourne             | 7.30pm        | Ericsson Stadium         |
| Wed 25.04.01            | Eastern Pride vs Sydney United          | 7.00pm        | Mobil Park               |
| Wed 25.04.01            | Syd Olympic vs N'castle United          | 5.00pm        | Belmore Spts Grd         |
| <b>Wed 25.04.01</b>     | <b>NORTHERN SPIRIT vs W'gong Wolves</b> | <b>7.30pm</b> | <b>North Sydney Oval</b> |
| Wed 25.04.01            | Adelaide City Force vs Canberra Cosmos  | 4.30pm        | Hindmarsh Stadium        |
| Wed 25.04.01            | Perth Glory vs Parramatta Power         | 7.00pm        | Perth Oval               |
| Wed 25.04.01            | Marconi Stallions vs Melbourne Knights  | 7.00pm        | Marconi Stadium          |
| BYE - Brisbane Strikers |                                         |               |                          |

## 2000/01 Competition ladder

| POS | TEAM                | P  | W  | D | L  | Bye | GF | GA | PT | POS       | TEAM                   | P         | W        | D        | L         | Bye      | GF        | GA        | PT        |
|-----|---------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|----|----|-----------|------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1   | South Melbourne     | 27 | 16 | 6 | 3  | 2   | 55 | 21 | 60 | 9         | Sydney United          | 27        | 8        | 6        | 11        | 2        | 38        | 50        | 36        |
| 2   | Perth Glory         | 27 | 14 | 7 | 4  | 2   | 66 | 31 | 55 | 10        | Canberra Cosmos        | 27        | 8        | 4        | 13        | 2        | 46        | 44        | 34        |
| 3   | Wollongong Wolves   | 27 | 14 | 7 | 4  | 2   | 68 | 35 | 55 | 11        | Parramatta Power       | 27        | 9        | 3        | 14        | 1        | 37        | 44        | 33        |
| 4   | Sydney Olympic      | 27 | 14 | 5 | 6  | 2   | 51 | 32 | 53 | <b>12</b> | <b>NORTHERN SPIRIT</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>35</b> | <b>37</b> | <b>32</b> |
| 5   | Marconi Stallions   | 27 | 10 | 7 | 8  | 2   | 39 | 32 | 43 | 13        | Brisbane Strikers      | 27        | 7        | 8        | 11        | 1        | 47        | 50        | 32        |
| 6   | Melbourne Knights   | 27 | 11 | 6 | 9  | 1   | 52 | 42 | 42 | 14        | Newcastle United       | 27        | 5        | 8        | 12        | 2        | 31        | 47        | 29        |
| 7   | Adelaide City Force | 27 | 9  | 7 | 9  | 2   | 46 | 47 | 40 | 15        | Eastern Pride          | 27        | 3        | 5        | 17        | 2        | 32        | 52        | 20        |
| 8   | Kingz FC            | 27 | 8  | 7 | 10 | 2   | 44 | 42 | 37 |           |                        |           |          |          |           |          |           |           |           |

\*For all matches which Carlton played, or were scheduled to play, three competition points will be awarded to their opponents with a 3-0 score.

## Northern Spirit 2000/2001 National League Fixtures and results

| Rnd | Date     | Versus              | H/A | Time/Score | Scorers                    | Crowd  | Points |
|-----|----------|---------------------|-----|------------|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| 1   | 15th Oct | Sydney United       | A   | 1-2        | Langdon                    | 4,958  | 0      |
| 2   | 20th Oct | Sydney Olympic      | H   | 0-0        | -                          | 10,254 | 1      |
| 3   | 28th Oct | Eastern Pride       | A   | 2-0        | Mendez (p) Moreira         | 1,653  | 4      |
| 4   | 3rd Nov  | Kingz FC            | H   | 4-2        | Burgess 3, Mendez (p)      | 4,294  | 7      |
| 5   | 11th Nov | Newcastle Breakers  | H   | 0-0        | -                          | 6,312  | 8      |
| 6   | 17th Nov | Adelaide City Force | A   | 2-3        | Catanzaro, Burgess         | 3,661  | 8      |
| 7   | 24th Nov | Perth Glory         | H   | 2-0        | Moreira, Burgess           | 5,764  | 11     |
| 8   | 3rd Dec  | Carlton             | A   | 3-0*       | Moreira                    | 3,109  | 14     |
| 9   | 8th Dec  | Marconi Stallions   | H   | 0-0        | -                          | 6,251  | 15     |
| 10  | 17th Dec | Melbourne Knights   | A   | 1-1        | Burgess                    | 4,320  | 16     |
| 11  | 22nd Dec | Brisbane Strikers   | H   | 1-0        | Burgess                    | 3,758  | 19     |
| 12  | 29th Dec | Parramatta Power    | A   | 0-3        | -                          | 8,176  | 19     |
| 13  | 5th Jan  | Canberra Cosmos     | H   | 0-2        | -                          | 4,688  | 19     |
| 15  | 19th Jan | South Melbourne     | H   | 1-2        | Burgess                    | 5,057  | 19     |
| 16  | 26th Jan | Sydney United       | H   | 1-2        | Burgess                    | 3,731  | 19     |
| 17  | 4th Feb  | Sydney Olympic      | A   | 1-2        | Mendez                     | 7,128  | 19     |
| 18  | 9th Feb  | Eastern Pride       | H   | 0-1        | -                          | 2,780  | 19     |
| 19  | 16th Feb | Kingz FC            | A   | 2-1        | Burgess 2                  | 5,988  | 22     |
| 20  | 23rd Feb | Newcastle United    | A   | 4-2        | Watkins 2, Langdon, Foster | 6,875  | 25     |
| 14  | 27th Feb | Wollongong Wolves   | A   | 2-2        | Burgess (p), Langdon       | 5,575  | 26     |
| 21  | 4th Mar  | Adelaide City Force | H   | 2-3        | Burgess, og                | 2,108  | 26     |
| 22  | 10th Mar | Perth Glory         | A   | 1-4        | Burgess (p)                | 11,991 | 26     |
| 23  | 16th Mar | BYE**               |     |            |                            |        |        |
| 24  | 24th Mar | Marconi Stallions   | A   | 0-0        | -                          | -      | 29     |
| 25  | 30th Mar | Melbourne Knights   | H   | 1-4        | -                          | 4802   | 30     |
| 26  | 8th Apr  | Brisbane Strikers   | A   | 1-1        | Howson                     | 3,119  | 30     |
| 27  | 13th Apr | Parramatta Power    | H   | 0-0        | Moreira                    | 1,680  | 31     |
| 28  | 21st Apr | Canberra Cosmos     | A   | 6:30pm     | -                          | 2,104  | 32     |
| 29  | 25th Apr | Wollongong Wolves   | H   | 7:30pm     |                            |        |        |
| 30  | 29th Apr | South Melbourne     | A   | 3:00pm     |                            |        |        |

\*final score was 1-1, but now stands as a 3-0 victory.

\*\*stands as a 3-0 victory

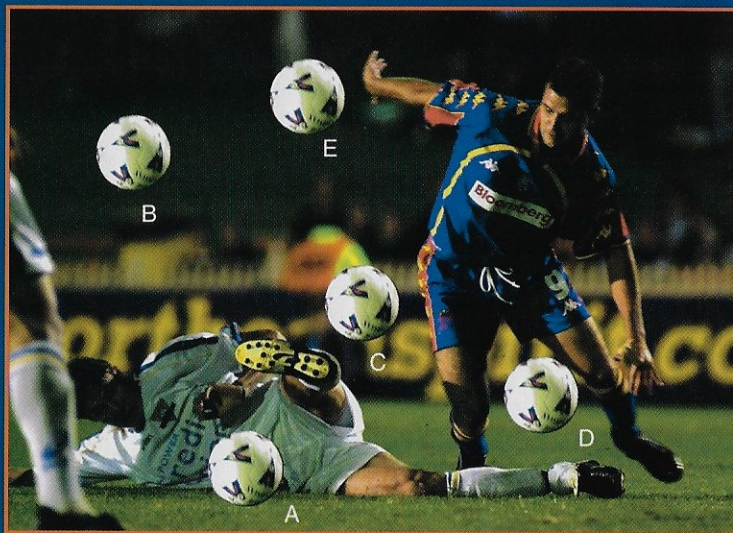


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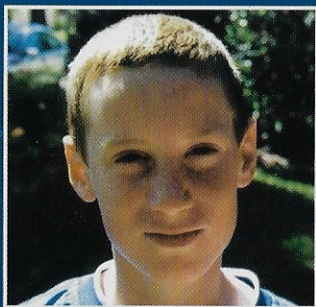
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## SPOT THE BALL

Which one of the five footballs is the real one?



## Meet the Mascot



Congratulations to tonight's lucky OYSC winner who will be running out with the team.

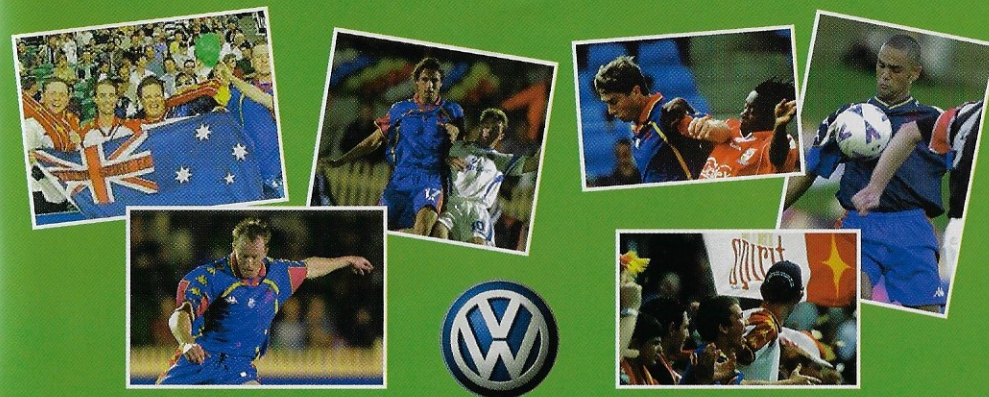
Name: Matt Barr

Age: 11 years

From: Manly

Favourite Player: Ben Burgess

*Spot the Ball answer: Ball A*



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- (d) "The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited."

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# The Spirit of Australia



Photograph: Sunbaker © Jill White - SOM QXM 1403, Qantas Airways Limited ABN 16 009 661 901.

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## Northern Spirit Stats (does not include Canberra game)

| Player          | Age | Career Games | N.Spirit Goals | 2000/01 Games | 2000/01 Goals | Games | Goals |
|-----------------|-----|--------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------|-------|
| Paul Bilokapic  | 24  | 164          | 14             | 66            | 5             | 13    | 0     |
| Matthew Bingley | 29  | 246          | 42             | 57            | 6             | 20    | 0     |
| Ben Burgess     | 19  | 25           | 14             | 25            | 14            | 25    | 14    |
| Simon Catanzaro | 20  | 21           | 1              | 21            | 1             | 4     | 1     |
| Troy Cranney    | 29  | 256          | 17             | 58            | 1             | 22    | 0     |
| Michael Cunico  | 22  | 78           | 2              | 78            | 2             | 25    | 0     |
| Robert Enes     | 25  | 132          | 7              | 62            | 1             | 22    | 0     |
| Lee Feeney      | 22  | 3            | 0              | 3             | 0             | 3     | 0     |
| Craig Foster    | 32  | 170          | 22             | 20            | 1             | 20    | 1     |
| Ryan Griffiths  | 19  | 23           | 4              | 23            | 4             | 12    | 0     |
| Paul Henderson  | 25  | 63           | 0              | 63            | 0             | 19    | 0     |
| Stuart Howson   | 19  | 11           | 1              | 11            | 1             | 11    | 1     |
| Matthew Hunter  | 16  | 1            | 0              | 1             | 0             | 1     | 0     |
| Matthew Langdon | 20  | 68           | 7              | 68            | 7             | 20    | 3     |
| Todd McRae      | 18  | 1            | 0              | 1             | 0             | 1     | 0     |
| Gabriel Mendez  | 28  | 124          | 19             | 25            | 3             | 12    | 3     |
| Alex Moreira    | 26  | 81           | 31             | 17            | 4             | 17    | 4     |
| Tony Perinich   | 28  | 97           | 22             | 25            | 4             | 8     | 0     |
| John Perosh     | 27  | 68           | 0              | 24            | 0             | 7     | 0     |
| Robbie Slater   | 36  | 251          | 57             | 61            | 10            | 7     | 0     |
| Mike Smith      | 31  | 151          | 19             | 8             | 0             | 8     | 0     |
| Jacek Sobczyk   | 21  | 27           | 0              | 27            | 0             | 6     | 0     |
| Noel Spencer    | 23  | 96           | 3              | 17            | 0             | 17    | 0     |
| Scott Thomas    | 26  | 144          | 5              | 20            | 0             | 20    | 0     |
| Daniel Watkins  | 20  | 76           | 14             | 36            | 5             | 14    | 2     |

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We welcome to North Sydney Oval tonight the Wollongong Wolves. Our head to head record against them makes for interesting reading - let's hope we can improve on it tonight!

#### HEAD TO HEAD

|                      |                         |                            |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total games played 5 | Northern Spirit wins 1  | Wollongong Wolves wins 3   |
| Draws 1              | Northern Spirit goals 5 | Wollongong Wolves goals 11 |

#### Previous confrontations

|          |                                     |     |                   |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| 06.11.98 | Northern Spirit v Wollongong Wolves | 1-0 | North Sydney Oval |
| 28.02.99 | Northern Spirit v Wollongong Wolves | 2-3 | Brandon Park      |
| 07.11.99 | Northern Spirit v Wollongong Wolves | 0-3 | Brandon Park      |
| 03.03.00 | Northern Spirit v Wollongong Wolves | 0-3 | North Sydney Oval |
| 27.02.01 | Northern Spirit v Wollongong Wolves | 2-2 | WIN Stadium       |

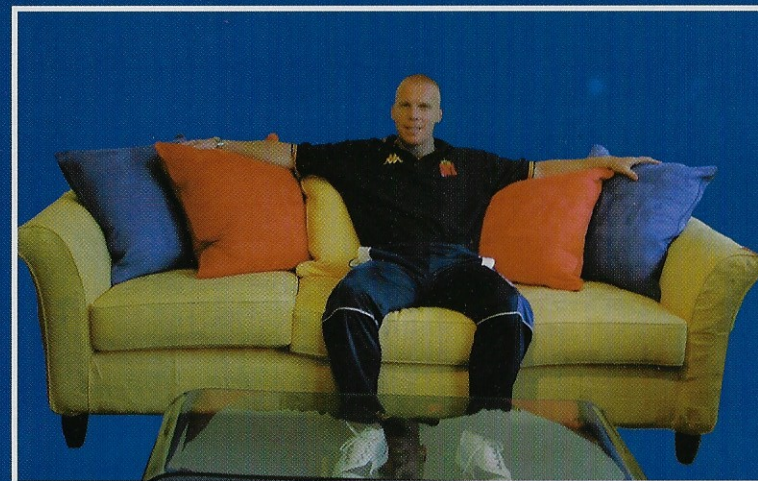
With this being the last issue of Spirit Matchday for the season, we would like to thank the players and officials of Northern Spirit for taking time to talk to us, as well as the following people: Bec Carey, Julian Floyd, Paul Anderson, Paul Goodwin, Andrew Howe (for statistical information), Bobby Campbell and anyone else we have forgotten!

Although on page 19 we show the career records of Northern Spirit players, as this is our last issue for the 2000/01 season a more detailed list for this season makes interesting reading (all stats do not include the Canberra Cosmos game)

#### Current season - detailed statistics - Northern Spirit 2000/01 NSL season

| Player          | Games | Starts | On as<br>sub | Full<br>games | Time<br>-mins- | Goals<br>(pen) | Cards<br>Y R |
|-----------------|-------|--------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Graham Arnold   | 13    | 13     | 0            | 9             | 1028           | 0              | 1 0          |
| Paul Bilokapic  | 13    | 5      | 8            | 4             | 535            | 0              | 2 0          |
| Matthew Bingley | 20    | 20     | 0            | 20            | 1778           | 0              | 2 1          |
| Ben Burgess     | 25    | 25     | 0            | 17            | 2022           | 14(2)          | 2 0          |
| Simon Catanzaro | 4     | 1      | 3            | 0             | 143            | 1              | 1 0          |
| Troy Cranney    | 22    | 22     | 0            | 19            | 1918           | 0              | 2 0          |
| Michael Cunico  | 25    | 23     | 2            | 22            | 2084           | 0              | 6 0          |
| Robert Enes     | 22    | 15     | 7            | 12            | 1511           | 0              | 5 0          |
| Lee Feeney      | 3     | 2      | 1            | 1             | 142            | 0              | 1 1          |
| Craig Foster    | 20    | 18     | 2            | 15            | 1677           | 1              | 6 0          |
| Ryan Griffiths  | 12    | 8      | 4            | 4             | 675            | 0              | 1 0          |
| Pau Henderson   | 19    | 19     | 0            | 19            | 1710           | 0              | 0 0          |
| Stuart Howson   | 11    | 11     | 0            | 10            | 987            | 1              | 2 0          |
| Matthew Hunter  | 1     | 0      | 1            | 0             | 15             | 0              | 0 0          |
| Matt Langdon    | 20    | 19     | 1            | 15            | 1661           | 3              | 6 0          |
| Todd McRae      | 1     | 1      | 0            | 0             | 60             | 0              | 0 0          |
| Gabriel Mendez  | 12    | 11     | 1            | 6             | 850            | 3(2)           | 5 1          |
| Alex Moreira    | 17    | 12     | 5            | 4             | 1052           | 4              | 2 0          |
| Tony Perinich   | 8     | 1      | 7            | 0             | 159            | 0              | 0 0          |
| John Perosh     | 7     | 7      | 0            | 7             | 630            | 0              | 0 0          |
| Robbie Slater   | 7     | 4      | 3            | 3             | 455            | 0              | 1 0          |
| Mike Smith      | 8     | 8      | 0            | 6             | 665            | 0              | 2 0          |
| Jack Sobczyk    | 6     | 3      | 3            | 3             | 286            | 0              | 2 0          |
| Noel Spencer    | 17    | 14     | 3            | 11            | 1189           | 0              | 5 0          |
| Scott Thomas    | 20    | 19     | 1            | 17            | 1698           | 0              | 8 1          |
| Daniel Watkins  | 14    | 5      | 9            | 1             | 696            | 2              | 0 0          |

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# national youth league

A 0-0 draw by the Northern Spirit youth team against third-placed Parramatta Power means Ian Crook's men face an uphill task of qualifying for the finals series.

Although Spirit had the better of the game, and nearly picked up the three points when Ryan Griffiths hit the post late in the second half, other results meant they were knocked from fourth position to sixth.

With the Canberra Cosmos game to be played after we go to print Spirit weren't helped by Newcastle United Youth winning a deferred match from round 17, while Wollongong also went above Spirit with a 6-0 win at the Newcastle United Colts team. With three games remaining at the time of writing the match at 4:00pm today at Christie Park against Wollongong looks like going some way to decide Northern Spirit's fate this season.

Spirit Matchday would like to take this opportunity to wish the team, and player's themselves, best of luck for this season and beyond.

## Youth Team results so far:

|                                                   |                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| R1 Sydney United 2-3 NORTHERN SPIRIT              | R17 Sydney Olympic Youth 2 - 0 NORTHERN SPIRIT   |
| R2 NORTHERN SPIRIT 3-2 Sydney Olympic Youth       | R18 NORTHERN SPIRIT 2 - 0 Newcastle United Colts |
| R3 Newcastle United Colts 0-6 NORTHERN SPIRIT     | R19 NSWIS 1 - 2 NORTHERN SPIRIT                  |
| R4 NORTHERN SPIRIT 2-0 N.S.W.I.S                  | R20 Newcastle United Youth 4 - 4 NORTHERN SPIRIT |
| R5 NORTHERN SPIRIT 2-0 Newcastle United Youth     | R14 Wollongong Wolves 1 - 2 NORTHERN SPIRIT      |
| R6 A.I.S 1-0 NORTHERN SPIRIT                      | R21 NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 - 1 AIS                    |
| R7 ACT Academy 0-3 NORTHERN SPIRIT                | R22 NORTHERN SPIRIT 5 -1 ACT ACADEMY             |
| R8 Bye                                            | R11 NORTHERN SPIRIT 1 - 2 QAS                    |
| R9 NORTHERN SPIRIT 1-2 Marconi Stallions Youth    | R23 Bye                                          |
| R10 Syd Olympic Academy 0-0 NORTHERN SPIRIT       | R24 Marconi Stallions Youth 3 -2 NORTHERN SPIRIT |
| R12 Parramatta Power 2-3 NORTHERN SPIRIT          | R25 NORTHERN SPIRIT 7 - 1 Syd Olympic Academy    |
| R13 NORTHERN SPIRIT 0-2 Canberra Cosmos           | R26 QAS 0 - 3 NORTHERN SPIRIT                    |
| R15 NORTHERN SPIRIT 4 - 2 Marconi Stallions Colts | R27 NORTHERN SPIRIT 0 - 0 Parramatta Power       |
| R16 NORTHERN SPIRIT 2 - 4 Sydney United           | R28 Canberra Cosmos TBA NORTHERN SPIRIT          |

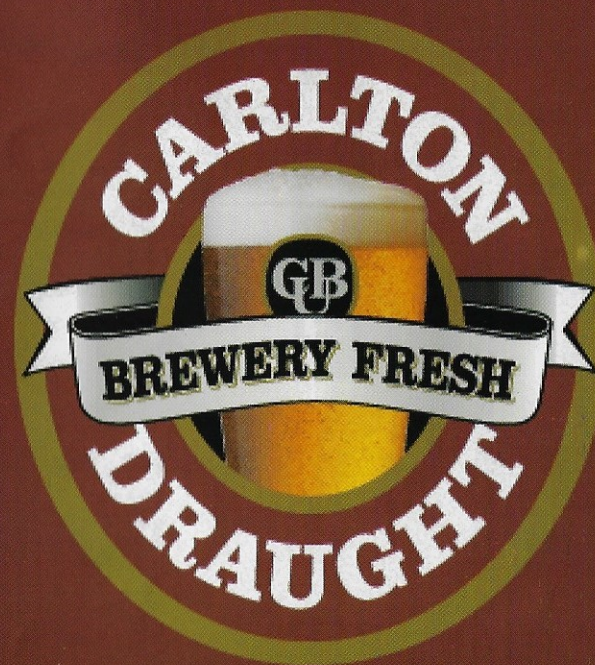
## Remaining games:

R29 - Wednesday 25th April 4:00pm v Wollongong Wolves - Christie Park

R30 - Sunday 29th April 1:00pm v Marconi Stallions Colts - Marconi Stadium

## NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE 2000/2001 NORTHERN DIVISION LEAGUE LADDER

| Team                 | P  | W  | D | B | L  | F  | A  | Pts | Team                  | P  | W  | D | B | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|----------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|-----------------------|----|----|---|---|----|----|----|-----|
| A.I.S.               | 25 | 20 | 3 | 2 | 2  | 73 | 28 | 63  | Q.A.S.                | 26 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 40 | 60 | 34  |
| Marconi Stallions    | 25 | 19 | 2 | 2 | 4  | 71 | 18 | 59  | Canberra Cosmos       | 25 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 49 | 47 | 33  |
| Parramatta Power     | 25 | 16 | 4 | 1 | 5  | 70 | 31 | 52  | N.S.W.I.S.            | 28 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 15 | 36 | 62 | 33  |
| Wollongong Wolves    | 26 | 14 | 6 | 2 | 6  | 59 | 28 | 48  | Sydney United         | 26 | 9  | 2 | 2 | 15 | 44 | 53 | 29  |
| Newcastle United     | 25 | 14 | 5 | 2 | 6  | 59 | 31 | 47  | Syd Olympic Acdy      | 26 | 4  | 6 | 1 | 16 | 40 | 69 | 18  |
| NORTHERN SPIRIT      | 25 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 7  | 58 | 33 | 46  | N'castle United Colts | 26 | 2  | 0 | 2 | 23 | 12 | 83 | 6   |
| Marc Stallions Colts | 24 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 55 | 42 | 38  | ACT Academy           | 25 | 1  | 3 | 2 | 21 | 15 | 98 | 6   |
| Sydney Olympic       | 24 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 52 | 44 | 34  |                       |    |    |   |   |    |    |    |     |



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